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CHSP	Eingang	Ablage		
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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. B02/064-0EP	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 02405673.1-2113-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire ALSTOM (Switzerland) Ltd	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☐ abstract

☐ title

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 3D

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 40 5673

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 6 376 800 B1 (FOSTER MICHAEL ET AL) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) * column 1, line 8 - column 2, line 42 * ---	1-5, 12, 16-21	F01D5/00 F01D5/28 B05D5/00 C25F5/00
X	US 5 318 091 A (PAVONI MARIO ET AL) 7 June 1994 (1994-06-07) * column 3, line 40 - column 4, line 68 * ---	1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 24, 28	
X	US 6 193 762 B1 (REED GARY ET AL) 27 February 2001 (2001-02-27) * column 4, line 52 - column 6, line 40 * ---	1, 5, 6, 11, 12	
Y, D	US 6 165 345 A (FAY WILLIAM ET AL) 26 December 2000 (2000-12-26) * column 1, line 4 - column 2, line 19 * ---	1-6, 11, 12, 16-22, 24-28	
Y	EP 1 076 106 A (ASEA BROWN BOVERI) 14 February 2001 (2001-02-14) * the whole document * -----	1-6, 11, 12, 16-22, 24-28	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) F01D B05D C23G C25F B23K B08B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 21 February 2003	Examiner Persichini, C
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			

1

EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 40 5673

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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21-02-2003

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ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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It is disclosed a method of protecting a local area of components (1) from the effects of thermochemical or mechanical processes carried out on the surface (6) of the component. A masking material containing at least one filler material is applied to the local area so that the local area is protected by the masking material (5a). This is at least partially polymerized on the local area. Subsequently the thermochemical or physical processes on the surface (6) of the component (1) are carried out after which the polymerized masking material (5a) is removed from the local area of the component (1).

Translation of the explanations of enclosure 2 of the search report of the European Patent Office ("Europäisches Patentamt") explaining the symbol letters stating the relevancy of the cited references:

Explanations

Column 1: Category of Named Documents

- X: Reference which by itself is considered to have special significance
- Y: Reference which in combination with another reference in the same category is considered to have special significance
- A: Technological background
- O: Disclosure not in writing
- P: In-between literature
- T: Theories or principles basic to the invention
- E: Older patent document published on or after filing date
- D: Reference cited in the patent application
- L: Reference cited for other reasons
- &: Member of same patent family, corresponding document

Column 2: Identification of document, specifying the relevant portions, if necessary

Column 3: Concerned claims
(In this column, the claims allocated to the relevant passages of column 2 are indicated.)

Column 4: Classification of Application (Int. Cl. 7)

Searched Fields (Int. Cl. 7)